

he bestowed more pains in the cultivation of it. His fields kept in better order, and more improved, yielded a larger produce, he lived in that ease and abundance which he had been ambitious to obtain for Lucetta. Two children successively blessed their union, they rejoiced to see themselves renewed in those tender pledges of their love. Perrin, in returning from the field, was usually met by his wife, who presented his children to him; he embraced them with transport, and then clasped Lucetta in his arms. The children were eagerly officious about their father; one wiped the sweat from his face, the other attempted to ease him of his spade. He smiled at their feeble efforts, caressed them again, and thanked heaven for having given him an affectionate wife, and children who resembled him.

Some years after the old rector died, and Perrin and Lucetta lamented his death; their minds dwelt afresh on what they owed to his humanity, the reflection made them contemplate their own situation. We too shall die, said they, and leave our farm to our children. It is not our property. If he to whom it belongs should return, they would be deprived of it for ever, we shall take the right of another with us to the grave. This idea they could not support; delicate in their integrity they could not be happy while their consciences

charged

charged them with the least appearance of fraud. They immediately had a declaration drawn, and signed by the principal inhabitants of the village, which set forth the tenure by which they held their farm. They lodged the declaration in the hands of the new rector. This precaution, which they thought necessary to enforce a restitution that justice might exact at their children, set their minds at ease.

Perrin had now been settled in his farm ten years. One day, after a forenoon's hard labour, as he was going home to dinner, he saw two men overturned in a chaise on the high road, a small distance from his house. He ran to their assistance, offered them his draught horses to convey their baggage; he begged of them to go with him, and accept such refreshment as his humble roof afforded. The travellers were not hurt by their fall. This is a very unluckily place to me, said one of them, I cannot pass it without suffering some misfortune. A great mischance befel me here about twelve years ago; I was returning from the fair at Woodston, and near this spot, I lost one hundred pounds. But did you neglect, said Perrin, who heard him with attention, to make proper enquiries for your money? It was not in my power, replied the stranger, to take the usual methods to recover it. I was just going to the East-Indies;